

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 213798  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/AA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK  
APPROVED BY P - DAVID NEWSOM  
NSC - WM. QUANDT (DRAFT)  
S/S:PTARNOFF

-----080038 230127Z /14

O 230040Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 213798

EXDIS-FOR AMBASSADORS EILTS AND LEWIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT:PRE-CAMP DAVID CONSULTATIONS

REF: CAIRO 19362 AND 19490; ATHERTON/LEWIS TELECON 8/19/78

1. FYI: WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH SADAT AND BEGIN WOULD LIKE AS MUCH ADVANCE INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON OUR THINKING ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF THE CAMP DAVID TALKS AND, IN PARTICULAR, HOW THE PRESIDENT ENVISAGES HIS ROLE, BOTH PROCEDURAL AND ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO HAVE THE KIND OF DETAILED CONSULTATIONS BOTH SADAT AND BEGIN WOULD LIKE BEFORE YOUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTURES FOR WASHINGTON. OUR OWN THINKING AND PLANNING ARE STILL BEING REFINED, AND WE WANT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH OF YOU IN THE FINAL STAGES OF OUR PRE-CAMP DAVID PREPARATIONS.

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IN-ADDITION, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM LATITUDE FOR THE PRESIDENT IN HIS CONDUCT OF THE TALKS AND THEREFORE PREFER THAT DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL CONSULTATIONS AWAIT HIS INITIAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND SADAT. END FYI.

2. IN DISCUSSING CAMP DAVID TALKS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE, AND IN YOUR FINAL CALLS

ON BEGIN AND SADAT, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT OUR VIEWS ARE STILL EVOLVING AND WILL NEED TO BE FURTHER REFINED FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS MAY HAVE. FOR OUR PART, YOU CAN SAY THAT WE SEE THE CAMP DAVID MEETINGS ABOVE ALL AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE THREE LEADERS, FREE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS AND FORMALITY, TO TALK THROUGH IN DEPTH POSSIBLE WAYS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. WE WOULD NOT ENVISAGE A FORMAL OR RIGIDLY-STRUCTURED AGENDA, BUT IT SEEMS TO US THE TALKS WILL NATURALLY FOCUS ON AN AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE KEY ISSUES WITH WHICH WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE BASIC DIFFERENCES OVER A SOLUTION TO THE WEST BANK/GAZA/PALESTINIAN COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS WHICH EMERGED MORE CLEARLY DEFINED FROM THE LEEDS CASTLE TALKS. IN BRIEF, WE SEE THE CAMP DAVID TALKS BOTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH EACH LEADER, AND FOR PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO INJECT NEW MOVEMENT INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS THEY STARTED LAST NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BY DEALING DIRECTLY, WITH PRESIDENT CARTER PARTICIPATING, WITH THE BASIC ISSUES OF AN OVERALL ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE

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SETTLEMENT. AS FOR SCHEDULE AT CAMP DAVID, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RESERVE THE FIRST MORNING (SEPTEMBER 6) FOR THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE BILATERAL TALKS WITH BEGIN AND SADAT RESPECTIVELY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO OUTLINE IN DETAIL HIS THOUGHTS ON THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT AND HOW THE TALKS THERE MIGHT PROCEED, AS WELL AS TO HEAR BEGIN'S AND SADAT'S VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT.

3. IN ADDITION TO ELICITING BEGIN'S AND SADAT'S REACTION TO THE FOREGOING, YOU SHOULD SEEK TO SMOKE OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AN ADVANCE INDICATION OF ANY PROPOSALS THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS MAY BE BRINGING WITH THEM. WE ALREADY HAVE SOME HELPFUL REPORTING FROM BOTH OF YOU IN THIS RESPECT (E.G., BEGIN'S INTEREST IN "PERMANENT PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS"), BUT NEED AS MUCH SPECIFICITY AS YOU CAN GLEAN WITHOUT APPEARING TO PRESS THEM UNDULY TO REVEAL IDEAS THEY PREFER TO HOLD UNTIL THEY MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014